



1331 Concord Avenue
P.O. Box H2O
Concord, CA 94524
(925) 688-8000 FAX (925) 688-8122
www.ccwater.com

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Directors

Joseph L. Campbell
President

Karl L. Wandry
Vice President

Bette Boatman
Lisa M. Borba
John A. Burgh

Jerry Brown
General Manager

Mr. Trevor Joseph
Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Management
Financial Assistance Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

**Subject: Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management
Implementation Grant Draft Funding Recommendations**

Dear Mr. Joseph:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant Draft Funding Recommendations. Although the East Contra Costa County (ECCC) IRWM region is disappointed that it did not receive additional funding for its proposal, the region is in support of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) draft funding recommendations. Specifically, we support the funding recommendation of \$1,775,000 towards two of the ECCC projects – the Pittsburg Recycled Water Pipeline Rehabilitation and Watershed Protection and Restoration Projects - that benefit the San Francisco Bay Area (SFBA).

Review of the DWR Proposition 84 Round 1 Implementation Grant Draft Funding Recommendations illustrates that grant awards within and across regions were modified based on ranking of scoring within funding areas, competitiveness or closeness of scores, and funding availability, among other factors. All of the \$200 million in the available funding in Round 1 was allocated. The ECCC IRWM region also understands that DWR did not allocate funding in this round from the \$100 million allocated for inter-regional funding.

The Pittsburg Project provides recycled water reliability that benefits the City of Pittsburg which is located in the Bay Area. The purpose of the Contra Costa County's (County) Watershed Protection Project is to acquire and restore habitat for endangered and listed species in Contra Costa County. The County is committed to ensuring that the Watershed Protection Project will be entirely located within the SFBA.

With the exception of the two projects being funded through the SFBA Funding Area, the ECCC IRWM region was the highest scoring region that did not receive funding.

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There were several other regions throughout the State with lower scores that received full grant funding (Mojave, San Diego, and SFBA). Should any of the projects in other IRWM regions that were recommended for funding be unable to proceed, we request that DWR consider the following ECCC IRWM shovel-ready projects for funding, with the highest priority listed first:

- Task 1 – East County Water Conservation Program (\$1,320,000)
- Task 2 – East County Water Meter Installation Program (\$565,000)
- Task 6 – Drainage Area 55 – West Antioch Creek Channel Improvements (\$3,000,000)
- Task 7 – Upper Sand Creek Basin (\$2,000,000)
- Task 5 – Contra Costa Canal Levee Mitigation and Flood Protection Project (\$3,000,000)
- Task 3 – Brentwood Nonpotable Water Distribution System (\$1,000,000)

Given that there is an overlapping area in the SFBA and ECCC IRWM regions, the two groups will collaborate closely in the future as projects are developed in our respective areas. We appreciate that DWR has a rigorous proposal review process and has expended considerable time and effort in making its funding recommendations. Thank you very much for considering our comments. Please contact Ms. Marie Valmores at (925) 688-8132 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Greg Gartrell
Assistant General Manager

GG/MV:

Attachment